Between the Lines

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THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
CONDENSED, NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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RENEWALS

Now that we are well passed our first birthday, subscription renewals will be a steady problem for both our office and our readers. The speed with which our circulation has grown is rare indeed. It has been hard for us to keep up with it. Now with renewals added to the constant and large stream of new subscribers, the task has doubled. The only way it can be handled satisfactorily is for our clients to renew promptly when the subscription dollar is again due.

Already some are writing us, "I neglected to send in my renewal dollar and have missed the last few issues. Here is the dollar, please forward the copies I missed. Don't want to miss any!"

You can see how that piles up work for our staff. When you get your notice of renewal, *please mail your response in promptly.* That will help us to help you. It is the strongest vote you can cast for the maintenance of freedom of speech and truth. And remember, sending in a new subscription with your renewal DOUBLES THE VOTE.

Priority for Cigarettes

With a desperate food shortage facing America in the immediate future, with transportation facilities crowded nearly to the breakdown stage, and with a great campaign on to utilize all possible land for food production, word comes from Washington that the cigarette manufacturers and tobacco monopolies are to continue to enjoy their virtual priority over milk, eggs, butter and meat.

Your boy may not be getting any meat or eggs at the front but nothing is to be allowed to happen which will prevent him from having a nice fresh pack of Luckies or Camels every day—provided, of course, that he or someone else pays for them. He may be out of ammunition but the big boys in Washington are going to see to it that the ships and trucks with the cartons of Chesterfields get through.

Now get this straight—we are not carping about the boys who smoke. This is not the complaint of a priggish reformer. This is a report on how the powerful tobacco industry is using the war to achieve as big a boost in its business as it got out of the last world war.

In 1913 cigarette consumption in this country was 164 per capita. Now it is 1,680 per capita. The aim of the tobacco companies is to reach a 3,000 per capita figure by 1947, producing a hollow cough in every household.

The USO in the camps are being pushed as prosperous outlets for cigarette sales. (Did you think the USO *gave* the boys cigarettes? Ask *them*!) Cigarettes are being used as diplomatic ammunition.

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Toward Fascism

The national "cradle to grave" security plan announced recently by the President has clarified and sharpened the coming conflict between the social planners in Washington and big business interests which are afraid for the future of the profit system in the post-war years.

Mr. Roosevelt has, with his usual superb political cunning, tossed the ball into the hands of Congress and says that the burden of planning the social and economic cushions for protecting the country against the slacks and let-downs of the post-war period now rests entirely there. The Senate, without a word of debate, created a special committee on post-war economic policy and planning. Its chairman, Senator George, who also heads the Finance Committee, said that it would start organizing and go to work at once.

Thus in the coming months we will see brought to bear on Congress all the pressure that can be summoned by the various interests and blocs of power in the country to influence the shaping of our future.

Elsewhere in this issue we report to you the parallel situation as it exists in England. To boil the question down, it is simply a matter of whether we can maintain a system of unrestricted private enterprise and meet the needs of approximately 35,000,000 people whose lives will be drastically disjointed when the war is over.

The strangle-hold of big business monopoly is one of the main barriers. *And one of the major errors of today's thinking is that big business monopolies belong to the capitalistic system of private enterprise.* Big business monopoly is the chief enemy of free enterprise which is the soul and genius of capitalism. If big business manages to hold the monopolies it has gained so swiftly in the past few years, *we will inevitably become a fascist state.* Managerial monopoly at the top, labor monopoly held by powerfully entrenched labor leaders at the other end, can bring a fascist regime to us quickly and completely. The drift is definitely that way. If the working man regains control over his unions and if the average business man and the little business man can regain a reasonable access to markets and resources, there is a chance for *true capitalism* to survive. However we had better face the fact that the tide is swinging the other way.

The Christian teaching of cooperation and sharing as it emanates from our churches and our lives, as it penetrates our national thought and planning, is the only source of hope. As we have frequently stated in our reports to you, the faith prevalent today that unchristian socialism can save unchristian capitalism is the greatest menace to democracy we have known.

Moscow Viewpoint

In spite of all official propaganda to the contrary, we have kept you posted on the fact that Moscow is not in harmony with the plans and personalities of London and Washington.

Did you know that Stalin recently said that the Russians do not consider the American and British action in Africa a second front? He also said, in so many words, that unless England and America quickly consummate their plans in Africa and make a full-fledged attack where German strength is importantly situated, the Russians would consider themselves alone in the war and would concentrate on the fulfillment of their own "destiny".

Do you think that "destiny" will be in full accord with dollar and Tory imperialism? This war is coming to another climax. We freely forecast that the immediate months ahead will produce some stern upsets to this strange morganatic marriage of New Deal socialism and racial imperialism.

Chungking Viewpoint

Madame Chiang Kai-shek said some things recently that were not at all comfortable or fitting to "the status quo" of the United Nations. Our government, the British government and the press of both nations passed over the great lady's words as quickly and as lightly as possible but the words stuck and stung. We have been told that there has been a lot of squirming in high places.

Said Madame Chiang: "China wants revenge and racial hatred to have no place in the post-war world. Cooperation and mutual respect must be everywhere. All nations, great and small, must have equal opportunity of development. Those who are stronger and more advanced should consider their strength as a trust to be used to help the weaker nations to fit themselves for full self-government and not to exploit them. Exploitation is spiritually as degrading to the exploiter as the exploited." (Were these words heard in London?)

"Then, too," states China's first lady, "there must be no bitterness in the reconstructed world. No matter what we have undergone and suffered, we must try to forgive those who injured us and remember only the lessons gained thereby. The teachings of Christ radiate ideas for the elevation of souls and intellectual capacities far above the common passions of hate and degradation. He taught us to help our less fortunate fellow beings, to work and strive for their betterment without ever deceiving

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Priority for Cigarettes

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American soldiers are urged to use them to win the good will of native populations. (Good business prospects for after the war.)

With all the labor shortage, not one whisper is permitted about curtailing the manpower used in the enormous tobacco business to aid in getting essential food supplies developed where shortages are acute.

Millions are being spent by the Department of Agriculture urging a wiser and more complete use of the land, but no one dares mention a reasonable rationing of tobacco land for the production of some essential foods that could be produced there in abundance.

In an early issue we will report to you how some of America's greatest medical institutions have been trying to warn the public that excessive cigarette smoking is undermining the health of the country in an alarming way. Such reports have been suppressed because of the enormous power of the tobacco trust and its advertising millions.

We are not starting a fight to prohibit cigarette smoking, but when selfish interests campaign to put cigarette profits above victory, patriotism and a nation's health, it is time to speak up.

Goods to Spain

There is much more tension in Washington than is generally known over the question, "What will Franco do?" The public is not at all aware of the serious nature of this situation. As most careful newspaper readers do know, Franco could have stabbed the American Africa Expeditionary Force in the back with disastrous effect to the entire United Nations cause. What the public does not know is how seriously that spectre has stalked the State and War Departments during the past twelve weeks.

It is now known that much of the delay and uncertainty evident in the African campaign has not been due to the bad weather or real Nazi resistance, but to the fear concerning the exposed American flank and rear.

A measure of this truth can be obtained from the recently revealed reports of what we have done in an effort to appease Franco and keep him neutral. Not only have we shipped Spain great quantities of food and fuel but it is reported in Washington that enough gasoline has also been sent to provide Spanish automobilists with much more normal driving than is being allowed American motorists!

If this will save American lives it is worth it. Few of us realize, however, how severe the war still is on the diplomatic front.

Labor, Church: Poll Tax

A determined drive to get the poll tax repeal bill through both Houses this session was started recently in Washington with a working conference of delegates from labor, church, negro, civic and other progressive groups meeting there.

Chungking Viewpoint

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ourselves and others by pretending that tragedy and ugliness do not exist. He taught us to hate the evil in men, but not men themselves. Let us remember that recrimination and hatred will lead us nowhere."

BRITISH AND AMERICAN censorship has prevented the American people from knowing that China's sympathies were chiefly with Gandhi during his recent fast. The People's Political Council, head of the powerful Chungking Young China's Party, sent cables to the British appealing for his release. Only one or two papers in America carried the report and they buried it as effectively as possible.

The Beveridge Report

Word from England brings information that reminds the American citizen of the fact that the Beveridge Report on social security for the average Englishman, has not yet become law. It never will if certain vested interests can help it.

The Beveridge plan would put an end to the stranglehold of the private insurance companies over millions of British citizens. The insurance interests intend to resist. They are powerful. Their directors include forty-three Tory members of Parliament and thirty-five out of the ninety peers created by the national government. *Their opposition has already vetoed discussion of Beveridge's report in the Army.* They have already got one of Brenden Bracken's publicists to leave the Ministry of Information and manage their publicity for them. And while Bracken plugs Beveridge for all he is worth in his propaganda to overseas countries (it is soft-pedalled at home), it is evident that big business has not been asleep.

The big business publicity is being cleverly done. It wraps up its protests against the swamping of "self-help" by "state-help" in phrases which would appeal to America's sentiment of "rugged individualism". They even call themselves The Individualists —an odd name for Lord Leverhulme, monopolist of West Africa's sweated labor, Lord Perry, England's Henry Ford, and the Jew-baiting Collin Brooks.

The Beveridge Report is designed to give the British people what President Roosevelt calls "freedom from want." Britain needs this security. Correspondents for the *World-over Press* state that before the war half of the people did not even get enough to eat. Conditions were worse than in much poorer countries in Europe. Beveridge wants to give a minimum income of $4.80 a week to the unemployed, ill, or too old to work. He wants people who have work to pay for it by compulsory contributions varying from 20¢ to 40¢ a week. He offers this security to everyone regardless of class or income. He does not offer paradise. He offers a certainty of subsistence.

Insurance under the Beveridge plan would not cost the average Englishman any more than he pays at present to various compulsory and voluntary schemes, but it would remove that fear of want which is the basis of business for the big insurance companies. It would mean a blow to big business in England such as Roosevelt delivered to American Wall Street big business. In a small way, the Beveridge Report means something of a New Deal for England. According to the liberal leaders of the English common people it is up against the same sort of opposition.

Religious Persecution

Word has reached America that the Protestant and Catholic churches in Holland have together inaugurated another great program of organized resistance to the Nazis. Letters of denunciation of Nazi tactics, chiefly concerned with the forceful removal of Dutch youths for German war work, and the persecution of both Jews and Christians, have been read from pulpits. Copies of these church statements are posted on doorways and billboards. The occupational police tear them down but "replacements exceed the removals."

Here are excerpts from some of these statements as they have been telephoned to the *New York Times* office from Christian sources in Holland:

"In all the injustices that are now being committed our sympathy goes out particularly to the youths who are being violently taken away from their parental homes. It goes out to the Catholic believers of Jewish origin and to those persecuted for their belief in religious freedom.

"Moreover, we are deeply moved [with shame] that in the execution of this persecution against our charges the collaboration of our own fellow-countrymen has been demanded . . .

"Conscience cannot allow collaboration in such things. If the refusal to collaborate implies sacrifice for the individual, then he must be strong and steadfast in the knowledge that he is doing his duty before God and man. The church does not wish to take sides in the conflict between states and peoples attempting to solve immense problems of national collaboration, but only as long as they respect divine law. With the mandate of Christ as guardian of Christian principles, it must not fail to proclaim inviolate the word of God, which is to obey Him rather than man." The Netherland National Socialist party's answer to these joint protests is reported to have been more arrests with "further measures" threatened.

It is inevitable that some day such letters and such reports will make up a new and glorious past of the church's testament and history.

The *New York Times* also reports that its religious editor has received word, by telephone from Switzerland, that a new Nazi campaign is on to suppress still further the Catholics in Poland. According to this report, hundreds of priests have been killed, and thousands of others sent to concentration camps. Before the war, 4,500 priests and bishops served the Polish Catholic Church. Today less than 700 of these remain to minister to the whole Polish population. Church schools and colleges and churches themselves are being closed in great number. Some of them are being turned into concert halls or cheap motion-picture houses. One famous and beautiful cathedral is being used as a gasoline depot.

Religious Tolerance

was started recently in Washington with a working conference of delegates from labor, church, negro, civic and other progressive groups meeting there.

United backing for the bill was assured when a group of Congressmen agreed to organize the drive both for a discharge petition to get the bill out of the Rules Committee and to win passage on the floor. The place of poll tax repeal as a war measure was described to the conference, called by the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax, by Nathan Cowan, CIO legislative representative, who said:

"The CIO will continue to support and fight with all our influence and power for the abolition of the poll tax, firm in the belief that America, to win in a total war, must provide total freedom for all its citizens regardless of race, religion or financial position."

The conference also heard the Rev. George Higgins of Catholic University who declared that both Christian teaching and American ideas of freedom are "clearly and distinctly" against the poll tax.

Thus the labor unions and the Catholic leaders are putting their weight behind the new move against the poll tax. It might be well to ask where the Protestants were in this conference. We heard they had representatives there . . . were they afraid to speak?

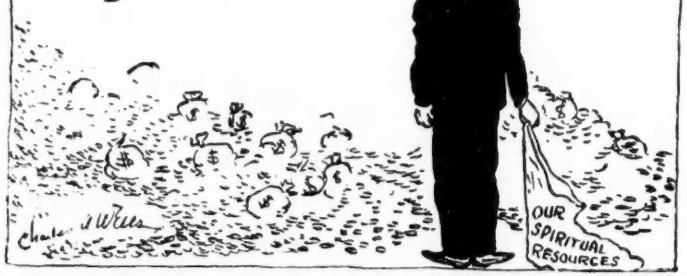
We realize Protestantism is divided on this question but regardless of how we feel in the North or South, the question is gradually being driven to solution. We fear that labor unions and our Catholic brethren are watching it much more closely than our Protestant leaders.

Child Labor

Labor shortages in various parts of the country are causing relaxation of legislation originally passed to protect women and children who work. In many areas it has become legally permissible to employ a sixteen or seventeen-year old. If such adjustments in existing child labor laws, where needed, can be made with the guarantee of adequate safeguards in hours and kind of work done, little harm may result. However, labor unions are disturbed by the fact that such relaxations in labor safeguards are made without their knowledge and their approval of the new working conditions.

The employment of child labor is steadily on the increase. In 1941 50,000 children under sixteen secured permits to work; in 1942 the number of such permits granted to children in this age group increased by 65%. Estimates of the National Child Labor Committee indicate that there are 580,000 children under sixteen years of age working full or part time. Often children are required to work at night.

The employment of children under sixteen seems totally unjustified. In labor shortage areas, the sixteen or eighteen year old group may be utilized but healthful working conditions should be carefully maintained and working hours strictly limited.



OUR GOLDEN CALF IS BROKEN

The war has already taught us one thing—that money is not the answer to life's needs. For years we worshipped money and what it could do. We made of it a golden calf and substituted it for the true god of truth, justice and freedom. When our way of life, which had been so dearly bought by the sacrifice of others, was threatened, we voted millions and billions of dollars as an offering and expected our golden calf to save us. Then the storm struck and we saw that our idol was powerless. Truth and freedom as a way of life can produce wealth, yet money can not buy *them*. So now we turn to our small store of spiritual reserves and face the fact that truth, justice, and freedom, the foundation principles of our way of life, are spiritual treasures that can be defended and restored only out of our spiritual resources. In the final analysis, those of us who ignore these facts are as dangerous to the life of democracy from within as our enemies are from without.

Hero

Captain Eddie Rickenbacker is one of America's topflight heroes yet because he does not fit comfortably into the political line-up in Washington, especially since he has got into a squabble with labor, up to this writing he has been ignored by the White House. Lesser heroes flock in and out of the Executive mansion.

The policy remains—the citizen is urged to give all without complaint or quarter while "politics as usual" bars many of our greatest men from the most important councils in our national life. Don't call us partisan for mentioning this: It was first brought up on the floor of Congress by a leading Democrat from the South!

The Navy and Submarines

One thing the average citizen is not aware of is that the entire United Nations cause has been badly tied up and dangerously delayed by the astonishing success of the Nazi submarines. The Nazis don't have much of a navy, but their scientific use of the U-boat is making the mighty combined navies of the United States and England look pitifully inadequate. The question being asked behind the scenes is, since the U-boat was the number one menace of the last war and it was known that the scientific German mind would continue to experiment with this deadly weapon, why have the naval leaders of the United States and British fleets failed to carry on experiments in submarine defense?

It is obvious that the defense technique we began in 1939 was where we left off in 1918. Not so with the Germans. Great care is being used in Washington to feed the news of our sea losses to the public in such rationed dribbles that we never get a good look at the total picture. If added up—the picture is frightful and is extremely uncomplimentary to the leadership of our navy departments.

The Navy leaders claim, of course, that the peace promotors blocked the growth of our naval power, but that is dodging the issue. We have already pointed out that since Germany has practically no navy and we have big navies yet are still more or less helpless, the answer is not in big navies but in *smart* navies,—a scientific use of brains instead of bulk.

The peace promotors urged the development of small, powerful, strictly modern and scientific defense units which could be quickly expanded on necessity but which would not be a big bulky threat to world peace such as huge armies and navies have always been. However, our military leadership in the past twenty years kept on demanding quantity expenditures instead of quality, and crucified men like General Billy Mitchell who had the ideas that are now the accepted methods of scientific defense.

This whole issue will have to be faced again as soon as the war is over and the possible consequences are incalculable. War is an evil, it is a preventable crime, but as long as we have to face its existence in the international scene, the trend toward defense in a Christian nation should certainly be toward the use of the mind than toward the attitude of the bully.

Religious Tolerance

For fear you missed it in the news, we want to call your attention to the fact that the United States Supreme Court recently overruled the Texas courts on their judgments to ban Jehovah's Witnesses from issuing their leaflets in the streets. The Supreme Court in Washington announced the far-reaching decision that such action of the members of the Jehovah's Witness sect is within the constitutional rights of freedom of religion and speech.

Several legal efforts have been made by courts throughout the country to ban the Jehovah's Witnesses, and while we offer no defense of the doctrines of this particular sect, no Christian citizen can fail to see the significance of the decision of the highest court in our land. It is a death blow to a brand of religious intolerance that has been springing up over the country. Such intolerance could quickly sweep on, given the right wind and fuel, to an expanding persecution of religious minorities.

And remember, most Christians belong to some minority group!

Drunken Absentees

In the big furore all over the nation by labor-industrial circles over "absenteeism" in defense factories, one of the truths behind it all is never mentioned in the press or over the air. A large part of "absenteeism" is caused by drunkenness and hangovers, yet, so great is the strangle-hold of the big liquor interests on the press and radio, the absent worker problem has been completely camouflaged.

The Army has been compelled to increase its control over drinking in the armed forces by several strong dry regulations, such as strict curfew hours on the sale of liquor and the prohibition of hard liquors in any form in army camps. This increase of Army regulation of liquor was due to the demoralizing of military efficiency on the part of large numbers of men returning from leave suffering from hangovers.

When the traitorous greed of the liquor gang found their profit-making schemes blocked by the Army chiefs, they turned to a greater exploitation of their opportunities in the industrial defense centers. Here they would have no interference from military authorities. By big advertising contracts they could silence the press and radio and thus burrow in for their loot, regardless of the enormous loss it would mean to the war effort.

Remember, we have a government in power now that makes no apologies for giving these booze traitors a free hand. There are men in high places in Washington who have large liquor investments and who are called by their first name as they pass easily in and out of the White House, But they are the "filth columnists" of this war.

Post-War Problems

In spite of all the propaganda and suppression of the truth about the relationship of the white man's war aims with the peoples of Asia, more and more the truth is seeping out and being recognized openly by important and authoritative bodies and organizations. For over a year *Between the Lines* has been informing its readers of the suppressed facts on these all-important relationships and it is gratifying to note that so many influential voices are now openly throwing light on facts and conditions which are still under official suppression in many quarters.

Toryism and American imperialism were recently shaken up by a report published by the conservative Foreign Policy Association, relative to future relationships with Asia. The report points out that unless Britain is willing to compromise to the American demand for a *literal* interpretation of the Atlantic Charter, and unless Russia and the United States are willing to find common purposes while they justly may hold to varying ideologies, there can be no hope of building peace in the Pacific.

The report which we should like to review for our readers states that just as the military defeat of Japan will become possible only on the defeat of Germany, so the *orderly* solution of Eastern questions will depend first of all on the establishment of peaceful, democratic conditions in the West. If Europe is divided by widespread, prolonged civil war after the defeat of Germany, if the partnership of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union is not maintained and strengthened, there will be no basis for an international approach to conditions in Asia.

This does not mean that there will then be no reconstruction in the Orient, but it will be reconstruction of the traditional type, with each power holding its own as much as possible, and with each colony or semi-colony waging a desperate struggle for freedom from overlordship—all amid the acute international friction characteristic of outright balance-of-power politics. In view of the past history of human progress, it would be unwise to say that nothing good could emerge from such a situation, but it would be a minimum of good, paid for with a maximum of blood. It would not be the intelligent type of growth inherent in the concept of the United Nations.

No one can foretell accurately the conditions that will prevail after the war, but in East Asia there would appear to be three prerequisites for peaceful, progressive development. First of all, Japan, as well as Germany must be utterly defeated. Secondly, China must continue its resistance until victory and must remain united in peace. Finally the United Nations must preserve and extend their wartime cooperation.

On this basis it is possible to arrive at certain minimum principles of a more or less broad character, failing which there will be nothing that can properly be described as orderly reconstruction. These minima include: measures to prevent Japan from waging future wars; complete Chinese sovereignty over all Chinese territory; the independence of India; and a sincere, well-planned effort to establish self-government in the various colonial areas at the earliest practicable moment with an end of white imperialism.

Practical application of these principles will present a staggering problem: Will China receive complete control over Manchuria and Formosa? In dealing with a defeated Japan, will an agreement be made with some of the dangerous elements that were responsible for war against us? Will the independence of India be granted as soon as hostilities cease, or will internal problems characteristic of all nations in the process of development be used to justify delay?

These questions cannot be answered at present, but by their actions now the major powers can indicate their intention to choose the forward-looking instead of the backward path. If the United States should take steps to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Act and place Chinese immigration on a quota basis, if Britain should move to resume discussions with the Indian nationalists, if the Netherlands should declare their willingness to join in international preparation of the Indies for self-government, then the omens for the future of Asia would be favorable indeed and the future be not so black.

Economy

The big business bloc in Congress masquerading under "economy measures" continues to use its power not only to curb unnecessary expenditures in the government that do need to be curtailed, but also to sink the knife of political assassination into many worthwhile reform measures that have been instituted by the government in the past few years.

The latest victim is the Securities and Exchange Commission whose main purpose, which has been ably accomplished, is to protect the average investor from all varieties of fraudulent securities.

The SEC, heeding the call for economy, cut its budget by $800,000. The Tory crowd in the House of Representatives was not satisfied with that and took off another $750,000.

Investors who remember back when unscrupulous brokers and "gold brick" salesmen defrauded the public of thousands and thousands of dollars endorse the work of the SEC, whereas the monopolistic utilities, Wall Street speculators and crooked promoters are solidly behind the "economy" of slicing the SEC's budget by a crippling amount. The average tax payer, however, would rather put his dollars into the protection accorded him by the SEC than into the cleverly presented but phoney schemes of dealers of worthless securities.

Labor Union Monopoly

Examples of the struggle of good citizenship and good government against racketeering in both the high spots and the lower levels constantly flood the stream of news, although much of such reports are suppressed.

An interesting instance showing how certain elements in the labor unions will not let their patriotism interfere with selfish interests is illustrated in a recent report from the building trades where the painters unions are being indicted on the west coast by a federal grand jury for violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in the same way that the government has been bringing indictments against the big corporations.

The charge was that the defendants combined to restrict the use of paint spray equipment not only in dwellings and business structures, but on federal housing projects and other facilities being constructed by government agencies in enormous extent.

It is charged the government was losing valuable time and was forced to pay increased and unnecessary costs. The dispute was climaxed when contractors and labor unions refused to allow the use of spray guns on a Federal Housing Authority project which was constructing a thousand dwelling units for shipyard workers.

The government charged that refusal to allow use of the equipment meant a delay of five to six weeks and practically doubled the cost of painting.

The painters tried to promote a strike in order to force the ban against the guns and naval authorities had to bar union officials from the job to get the painting completed. In some places Marines acted as guards to protect painters on a job.

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